

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method for managing risk related to a financial transaction, the method comprising:  
gathering data related to risk variables for a financial transaction;  
receiving information relating to details of a financial transaction;  
structuring the information received according to risk quotient criteria; and  
calculating a risk quotient referencing the structured information and the gathered data.
2. The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of generating a suggested action responsive to the risk quotient.
3. The method of claim 2 additionally comprising the steps of:  
storing the information received, the risk quotient and the suggested action; and  
generating a diligence report referencing the stored information.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the diligence report comprises the information received relating to details of the financial transaction and actions taken responsive to the risk quotient.
5. The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested action is additionally responsive to the information received.
6. The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested actions are directed towards reducing risk related to a financial transaction with international exposure.
7. The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested action comprises refusing to perform a transaction.
8. The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested action comprises blocking acceptance of an account.
9. The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested action comprises notifying an authority.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein the information received comprises the identity of a high risk entity and the high risk entity's relationship to an account holder.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein the information received comprises the identity of a secrecy jurisdiction.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the information received is gathered electronically.
13. The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of aggregating risk quotients relating to a financial institution to assess a level of identified risk to which the financial institution is exposed.
14. The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of calculating an average risk quotient associated with a transaction.
15. The method of claim 1 wherein the financial transaction comprises opening a financial account.
16. A computerized system for managing risk associated with a financial account, the system comprising:
  - a computer server accessible with a network access device via a communications network; and
  - executable software stored on the server and executable on demand, the software operative with the server to cause the system to:
    - gather data related to risk variables for a financial transaction
    - receive information relating to details of a financial transaction;
    - structure the information received according to risk quotient criteria; and
    - calculate a risk quotient referencing the structured information and the gathered data.
17. The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the information is received via an electronic feed.
18. The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the information received is generated by a government agency.
19. The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the network access device is a personal computer.
20. The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the network access device is a wireless handheld device.
21. Computer executable program code residing on a computer-readable medium, the program code comprising instructions for causing the computer to:
  - gather data related to risk variables for a financial transaction

receive information relating to details of a financial transaction;  
structure the information received according to risk quotient criteria; and  
calculate a risk quotient referencing the structured information and the gathered data.

22. A computer data signal embodied in a digital data stream comprising data relating to risk management, wherein the computer data signal is generated by a method comprising the steps of:  
gathering data related to risk variables for a financial transaction;  
receiving information relating to details of a financial transaction;  
structuring the information received according to risk quotient criteria; and  
calculating a risk quotient referencing the structured information and the gathered data.

23. A method of interacting with a network access device so as to manage risk relating to a financial transaction, the method comprising the steps of:  
initiating interaction with a risk management server via a communications network;  
inputting information relating to details of a financial transaction via a graphical user interface; and  
and receiving a risk quotient indicative of a level of risk associated with the transaction.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the risk quotient is a numerical value.

25. The method of claim 23 additionally comprising the step of receiving a description of suggested action that can be taken to mitigate a level of risk associated with the transaction.

